

Application No.: 10/057,667
Amendment and Response dated March 11, 2004
Reply to Office Action of January 14, 2004
Docket No.: 760-12 DIV
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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the subject application, and please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1. (currently amended): A method of making a tubular stent/graft assembly comprising the steps of (i) forming a substantially planar strip and wire assembly comprising non-woven planar graft material formable into a graft and planar stent wire formable into a radially adjustable stent, wherein said wire is attached lengthwise along the length of said planar strip; and (ii) helically winding said substantially planar strip and wire assembly to form said tubular stent/graft assembly.

Claim 2. (original): The method of claim 1 further including forming said planar strip and wire assembly by positioning said planar stent wire between two layers of said planar graft material.

Claim 3. (original): The method of claim 2 wherein said layers of planar graft material are laminated together.

Claim 4. (original): The method of claim 3 wherein said planar strip and wire assembly comprises multiple layers of graft material on each side of said stent wire.

Claim 5. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the planar graft material is a non-textile strip of polymeric graft material.

Claim 6. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the step of helically winding said substantially planar strip and wire assembly further includes winding the assembly so that at least two consecutive windings overlap.

Claim 7. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the step of helically winding said substantially planar strip and wire assembly further includes winding the assembly so that consecutive windings do not overlap.

Claim 8. (currently amended): A method of making a stent/graft assembly comprising:
forming a substantially planar graft and stent material assembly comprising non-woven graft material and stent material; and
winding said substantially planar graft and stent assembly to form said stent/graft assembly.

Claim 9. (original): The method of claim 8, wherein the step of forming said substantially planar graft and stent assembly further includes undulating said stent material along its length.

Claim 10. (original): The method of claim 8, wherein said stent material is an elongate stent wire.

Claim 11. (original): The method of claim 8, wherein said graft material is a non-textile planar strip of polymeric graft material.

Claim 12. (original): The method of claim 8, wherein the step of forming said substantially planar graft and stent material assembly further includes positioning said stent material between two layers of graft material.

Claim 13. (original): The method of claim 12, further including the step of laminating said two layers of graft material together.

Claim 14. (original): The method of claim 8, wherein the step of winding said substantially planar graft and stent assembly includes winding said assembly so that at least two consecutive windings overlap.

Claim 15. (original): The method of claim 8, wherein the step of winding said substantially planar graft and stent assembly includes winding said assembly so that consecutive windings do not overlap.

Claim 16. (original): The method of claim 8, wherein the step of winding said substantially planar graft and stent assembly further includes helically winding said assembly to form a tubular structure.

Claim 17. (currently amended): A method of making a tubular stent/graft assembly comprising the steps of (i) forming a substantially planar strip and stent assembly comprising planar non-woven graft material formable into a graft and a planar stent formable into a radially adjustable stent, wherein said planar stent is attached along the length of said planar strip; and (ii) helically winding said substantially planar strip and stent assembly to form said tubular stent/graft assembly.

Claim 18. (previously presented): The method of claim 17 further including forming said planar strip and stent assembly by positioning said planar stent assembly between two layers of said planar graft material.

Claim 19. (previously presented): The method of claim 18 wherein said layers of planar graft material are laminated together.

Claim 20. (previously presented): The method of claim 17 wherein the planar graft material is a non-textile strip of polymeric graft material.

Claim 21. (previously presented): The method of claim 17 wherein the step of helically winding said substantially planar strip and stent assembly further includes winding the assembly so that at least two consecutive windings overlap.

Claim 22. (previously presented): The method of claim 17 wherein the step of helically winding said substantially planar strip and stent assembly further includes winding the assembly so that consecutive windings do not overlap.

Claim 23. (previously presented): The method of claim 17 wherein said planar stent comprises a plurality of stent wires.

Claim 24. (previously presented): The method of claim 17 wherein said planar stent comprises a plurality of linked stent wires.

Claim 25. (previously presented): The method of claim 17 wherein said planar stent is comprised of nitinol.

Claim 26. (previously presented): The method of claim 17 wherein said planar stent is attached lengthwise along the length of said planar strip.